

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PK, IT

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN TO ITALY

REFERENCE: ROME 10532

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON
PAKISTAN'S AMBASSADOR TO ITALY, JAMSHED GUSTADJI KHARAS,
AS FOLLOWS:

2. KHARAS IS A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO HAS
BEEN AT HIS PRESENT POST SINCE APRIL 1975. HE HAD
PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO MADRID, 63-66 (CON-
CURRENTLY TO VATICAN); BELGRADE; BONN; AND THE HAGUE,
1972-74 (CONCURRENTLY TO COPENHAGEN). HE HAS HEADED
OR SERVED AS DEPUTY OF THE GOP'S DELEGATIONS TO THE
LAW OF SEA CONFERENCES IN CARACAS AND GENEVA.

3. BORN IN 1919 IN SIND, HE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY A MEMBER OF THE SIND
PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE, THEN THE ELITE PAKISTAN CIVIL
SERVICE UNTIL 1954 WHEN HE SWITCHED TO FOREIGN SERVICE.//
8, 5#3 *9438&, .8,8 546, KHARAS HAS HELD POSITIONS AS
JOINT SECRETARY FOR FAR EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA, DIRECTOROP
GENERAL F
OR ADMINIYVKVODHN AND ACTING FOREIGN SAXRETARY.
HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS HIGH COMMISSIONER (AMBASSADOR-
EQUIVALENT) TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1960-61.
RLRM KHARAS AND HIS WIFE, MEMBERS OF THE PARSI (ZOROASTRIAN)
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RELIGIOUS SECT, BOTH HAIL FROM WEALTHY AND SOCIALLZ

PROMINENT FAMILIES. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN, A GIRL AGE 24 AND A BOY AGE 21. THE AMBASSADOR, A SHORT PLUMP MAN, IS HIGHLY WESTERNIZED AND WAS SAID IN THE 1960'S TO ENJOY DRINKING, GAMBLING AND HORSE RACING. HE IS ALSO REPORTEDLY VERY FOND OF SPORT, ESPECIALLY CRICKET AND SHOOTING.

5. OVER A DECADE AGO, AMERICAN OFFICIAL CHARACTERIZED KHARAS AS FOLLOWS: "CONVEYS AN IMPRESSION OF AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE, CONSIDERED AN AGREEABLE IF SOMEWHAT RESERVED AND UNIMAGINATIVE OFFICIAL, WITH A STOLID, PLODDING APPROACH TO PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH REPORTEDLY PRO-US AND FRIENDLY WITH US OFFICIALS, HE IS CONSCIOUS OF RANK AND MAY PREFER TO RESTRICT HIS CONTACTS". HOWEVER, HE MADE A MORE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION UPON OUR MISSION IN THE HAGUE WHERE HE WAS ON CLOSE, FRIENDLY TERMS WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM. IN 1974, THEY DESCRIBED HIM AS A VERY ENGAGING COLLEAGUE WITH A SHREW MIND AND GIFT FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION.
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